

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEST COAST TANKER MEETING

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE OF U.S.-CANADIAN
MEETING ON WEST COAST TANKER TRAFFIC:

QUOTE U.S. AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS MET IN WASHINGTON ON
JANUARY 17 TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE EX-
PECTED INCREASE IN OIL TRANSPORT AND REFINING ON THE
PACIFIC COAST. CENTRAL TO THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS THE PROB-
LEM OF HOW TO ASSURE THAT MARINE TRANSIT AND REFINING OF
OIL IN THE PUGET SOUND/STRAITS OF JUAN DE FUCA AREA CAN
BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE
FASHION. THE TWO SIDES EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION AT THE
PROGRESS BEING MADE IN BILATERAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE PRO-
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TECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA.

U.S. AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS REVIEWED THE STATUS OF PLANS FOR JOINT VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN THE PUGET SOUND/JUAN DE FUCA AREA. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A VOLUNTARY TRAFFIC SEPARATION PLAN WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 1, 1975. THE SYSTEM WAS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY BY THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. OFFICIALS ALSO DISCUSSED PROPOSED OFFSHORE ROUTES TO BE USED BY TANKERS FROM ALASKA TO WEST COAST PORTS.

S. OFFICIALS TABLED AT THE MEETING A DRAFT REPORT ON PRESENT AND PROPOSED U.S. SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS IN THE JUAN DE FUCA/PUGET SOUND AREA. CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAD TABLED A SIMILAR REPORT AT THE COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUS MEETING IN OTTAWA. IT WAS AGREED THAT TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD REVIEW AND ASSESS THE COMPATIBILITY OF EXISTING RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENTS EARLY THIS SPRING ON PRIORITIES AND JOINT COORDINATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

OFFICIALS ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTIONS RELATING TO LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR OIL SPILLS. BOTH SIDES UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE DETAILED RESPONSES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING RELEVANT DOMESTIC LEGISLATION. U.S. OFFICIALS NOTED THAT FURTHER LEGISLATION AFFECTING THIS FIELD MAY SOON BE INTRODUCED IN THE CONGRESS.

A STATE OF WASHINGTON STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING OFFSHORE PETROLEUM TRANSFER FACILITIES IN THE STATE'S COASTAL WATERS WAS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL AT THE MEETING. THE STUDY OUTLINES SEVERAL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO TANKER TRAFFIC INTO PUGET SOUND INCLUDING TERMINALS AT OR NEAR PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON ON THE STRAITS OF JUAN DE FUCA.

U.S. OFFICIALS INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF CANADIAN PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL OIL REFINING CAPACITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. CANADIAN OFFICIALS STATED THAT CONSIDERATION OF ANY EXPANSION OF REFINERY CAPACITY IS AT AN EARLY STAGE. IN ANY EVENT, THE EXPANDED FACILITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPECTED TO BE SUPPLIED BY PIPELINE AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRESENT BILATERAL EFFORT TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE REGION. U.S. OFFICIALS ALSO NOTED THAT INCREASED SHORTFALLS OF CANADIAN NATURAL GAS AND CRUDE OIL INCREASED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TANKER TRAFFIC TO MEET U.S. REGIONAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

EXAMINATION OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THESE PROBLEMS

WILL CONTINUE BETWEEN THE AGENCIES CONCERNED. THE AGEN-
CIES REPRESENTED ON THE AMERICAN SIDE WERE THE DEPART-
MENTS OF STATE AND INTERIOR, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-
TION, THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, THE COAST
GUARD, THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL, THE CORPS OF ENGI-
NEERS AND THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. ON TE CANADIAN SIDE,
THE DEPARTMENTS OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY,
MINES AND RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH

COLUMBIA WERE REPRESENTED. UNQUOTE

2. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES SEEMED PLEASED AT POSITIVE
U.S. TONE DURING MEETING, PARTICULARLY IN REGARDS TANKER
TRAFFIC WITHIN STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA. WILL POUCH
SUMMARY OF MEETING. KISSINGER

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